

Claims

I Claim:

1. A method of tracking immunizations by use of machine-readable communications devices, the method comprising the steps of:
attaching a machine-readable communications device on an immunization product package, the communications device comprising machine-readable data including immunization product identification, manufacturer identification, immunization product lot number, and manufacturing date;
entering at least a portion of the machine-readable data read by a machine from the machine-readable communications device on the immunization product package to a computerized immunization-tracking file at an immunization provider location; and
entering patient identification and administration date on the immunization-tracking file generally at the time of administration.
2. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 comprising the additional step of providing the immunization-tracking file on a network to define a computerized immunization tracking system comprising a plurality of computerized immunization-tracking files accessible from a plurality of immunization provider locations.
3. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein the machine-readable data includes immunization dose.
4. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein an administered dose is entered on the immunization tracking file generally at the time of administration at the immunization provider location.
5. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein the machine-readable device comprises a bar code attached to the immunization product packaging.

6. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein the machine-readable device comprises a magnetic strip attached to the immunization product packaging.

7. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein the machine-readable device comprises a microprocessor attached to the immunization product packaging.

8. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein the immunization product packaging is a vial.

9. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein the immunization product packaging is a package comprising a plurality of vials.

10. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein the immunization product packaging is a syringe.

11. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein the immunization product packaging is a package comprising a plurality of syringes.

12. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the immunization-tracking file is uploaded into a computerized patient file maintained at a medical provider facility.

13. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the immunization-tracking file is uploaded into a computerized patient-billing file maintained at a medical provider facility.

14. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the immunization-tracking file is uploaded into a computerized patient medical insurance file maintained at a medical provider facility.

15. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 1 wherein the communications device comprising machine-readable data is attached to the immunization product packaging at an immunization product manufacturer's location.

16. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 2 wherein the network is assessable by an immunization-tracking authority comprising a computer facility connected to the network for retrieving and processing of said plurality of computerized immunization-tracking files on the network.

17. A method of tracking immunizations by use of machine-readable communications devices, the method comprising the steps of:
attaching a machine-readable communications device on an immunization product package, the communications device comprising machine-readable data including immunization product identification, manufacturer identification, immunization product lot number, and manufacturing date;
entering at least a portion of the machine-readable data read by a machine from the machine-readable communications device on the immunization product package and additionally entering patient identification and administration date to define a provider's immunization-tracking file on a provider's computer at an immunization provider location.

18. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 17 comprising a plurality of provider's computers connected to an immunization-tracking network, said plurality of provider's computers comprising a plurality of provider's immunization-tracking files.

19. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 18 wherein the immunization-tracking network is accessible by an immunization-tracking authority comprising a computer facility connected to the immunization-tracking network for retrieving and processing of said plurality of provider's immunization-tracking files on the immunization-tracking network.

20. The method of tracking immunizations of claim 19 comprising a manufacturer's immunization product file comprising the machine-readable data on a manufacturer's computer, the manufacturer's computer being connected to the immunization-tracking network accessible by the immunization-tracking authority.